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Status of STARGATE Program

In response to Congressional direction that the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) transfer the STARGATE program to CIA, and that we perform a retrospective review of the program's activities, we have initiated a number of actions, including:

- Trading data with DIA to conduct the requested review and program transfer, including several officially declassified documents.
- Exchanging draft tasking statements with the National Research Council (NRC) to establish a Blue Ribbon Panel to ensure a comprehensive and unbiased technical retrospective review of the program.
- Beginning an effort to declassify information related to STARGATE. We already have held informal discussions with the Agency's Center for the Study of Intelligence on developing strategies for declassifying information and are preparing a memorandum that specifies our declassification requirements for DIA.
- Requesting the cooperation of the US Army Research Institute, which holds a contract related to behavioral sciences with the NRC. We also are preparing to transfer resources to the Institute for the cost of managing and supporting the NRC during the technical review.
- Contacting several organizations involved in the program to review STARGATE's operations.

Following the completion of these declassification and review efforts, we will develop a comprehensive management strategy for the program. (S)

Declassification

To comply with Congressional direction, we will declassify immediately certain aspects of our program, including the Agency's past sponsorship of activities related to the investigation of paranormal phenomena for intelligence purposes and the results of this research. In order to determine what additional information related to

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the STARGATE program can be declassified, we will convene a DCI classification review committee. This committee will conduct a detailed review of all CIA and DIA program documents and other information--including actual targets against which operations were conducted and their nature, the customers for these operations, and resources allocated to this effort--to declassify further where appropriate. (S)

To facilitate the declassification effort and the Blue Ribbon Panel review, we will request DIA to:

- Declassify its sponsorship of STARGATE and to continue downgrading and declassifying the technical reports associated with the program.
- Eliminate the program's compartmentation, and remove from a limited distribution status all other classified documentation related to STARGATE and consider declassifying these documents further.
- Transfer to CIA all DIA documents associated with STARGATE following declassification consideration for archival purposes and further review by the DCI declassification committee.
- Assist the Agency in executing the Blue Ribbon Panel review by providing unclassified information relating to the program when requested by the Panel. (S)

Retrospective Review

To perform the retrospective review of STARGATE's 20-year history and a technical analysis of the program's results, we will work closely with the NRC, which has ready access to a variety of experts in the scientific fields related to the program. In addition to establishing the Blue Ribbon Panel of parapsychological phenomena, CIA will request the NRC to:

- Review research and development studies related to this program--less than 50 studies--for which unclassified reports are available.
- Meet with former program officials to develop a comprehensive understanding of STARGATE's current direction.
- Perform technical evaluation of all the data related to the program, including experimental designs and their results, and proposed future research. This evaluation will contain

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recommendations on which technical areas have the potential for fruitful research and will identify areas that should not be pursued further.

- Draft the final report, which will incorporate the findings of the Blue Ribbon Panel; the NRC also will participate, as appropriate, in briefing these findings to the Congress. (S)

The review and analysis of the Blue Ribbon Panel will be unclassified, but we will not release its findings until the Congress and the involved agencies have been briefed. We are working with the NRC to determine the appropriate amount of time for the study, which could require up to six months. (S)

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Attachment

Schedule of Events*March 1995*

- Status of transfer of program activities to CIA.
- Preliminary declassification actions by CIA, request to DIA for further action.

April 1995

- Establish DCI declassification committee to review long-term issues.
- Form Blue Ribbon Panel to conduct retrospective review and technical data analysis.

March-June 1995

- Conduct technical review, interview Intelligence Community users, draft preliminary report and recommendations.

July 1995

- Develop CIA program management strategy that addresses proper scope, resources, and management.
- Brief Congress on results and recommendations of Blue Ribbon Panel.
- Report program design and status to Congress and complete actual transfer.